

**Silver Spring Transportation Management District Advisory Committee  
(SSTMD AC) Meeting Summary  
March 13, 2008**

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**Item 1,2: Introductions/Agenda Review, Review of February Minutes** – Members and guests introduced themselves. Minutes were reviewed, but without a quorum could not be officially approved. However, a minor typing error was noted and corrected.

**Item 3: Chair's Comments** – Vice Chair **Charles Segerman** chaired the Committee in **Jim Polk's** absence. Mr. Segerman discussed the February 28<sup>th</sup> budget meeting with **County Executive Leggett**. Mr. Segerman thought that the Committee's requests were effective.

**Sande Brecher** added two striking statistics that emphasized the budget shortfall the County is working with:

- In the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter of 2006, there were 15 foreclosures in Montgomery County. In the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter of 2007, there were 1,300.
- Expenditures have been rising at a rate of more than 8 percent per year; revenue projections are down 45%.

**Mr. Segerman** added that a positive sign from the budget meeting was an acknowledgement from **Mr. Leggett** that work in Silver Spring was not complete, indicating that major scheduled improvements will continue. It will, however, be in a fiscally responsible way.

**Item 4 – Presentation on the Purple Line:** Presenter **Michael Madden**, MTA Office of Planning, was expected to arrive later. The presentation was delayed until his arrival.

**Item 5 – IOS and Commuter Store:** **Ms. Brecher** discussed the Interim Operating Site and new Commuter Store. The plan is to move the store and the offices before the end of June, 2008. Much of the preliminary items have been taken care of, such as network, phone, etc., and Ms. Brecher hopes to move the commuter store operations no later than the beginning of May. The store will be located at the corner of Wayne and Ramsey; the offices will be at 1110 Bonifant. The new name for the store, along with a new store in Friendship Heights, will be **TRiPS**, an acronym for **Transportation Resources, Information, & Places to See**.

**Ms. Brecher** distributed a letter and other information materials related to Bike Sharing. Washington, DC and Arlington both have active projects in place to establish Bike Sharing. Bike Sharing differs from the "Bike Stations," discussed in conjunction with the Silver Spring Transit Center. Bike Stations will offer bicycle repairs and valet service. Bike Sharing allows the public to use a card or other mechanism to access shared bicycles for a fee. An article on Bike Sharing, from the Washington Business Journal, was included in members' packets.

**Ms. Brecher** noted some differences in the technologies planned for use in Arlington vs. DC, and noted there may be differences in how cost effective they are. **Mr. Segerman** suggested doing some research, figuring out some better options, and eventually trying to alter the program a bit. DPWT Director **Art Holmes** is requesting feedback with limited turnaround time, so any feedback from the Committee would be appreciated.

**Item 6 – Updates:** **Mr. Segerman** stated that it would be a good idea to meet with the County Executive's new point person on pedestrian safety. Additionally, it may be a good idea to meet with the people in charge of the Transit Center/IOS project again, as it has been several months since the last update.

**Sgt. Harmon** updated the group on new statistics for citations, and stated that new seat belt initiatives are in place. In one particular instance, on Georgia Ave at the Beltway, approximately 50 tickets were written in 90 minutes, so seat belt compliance is not yet where it should be. The Street Smart campaign, a pedestrian safety initiative, began last Friday, March 7<sup>th</sup>. There are a few new speed cameras in place.

**Revisit Item 4 - Presentation on the Purple Line:** **Michael Madden** from MTA gave a presentation on the proposed Silver Spring Purple Line routes. Some of the key goals of the Purple Line include:

- Faster and more reliable service
- Improved system connectivity
- Improved service to transit-dependent populations
- Support for regional and local master plans
- Strengthened and revitalized communities
- Improved mobility and access among some of the major activity centers along the corridor

**Mr. Madden** discussed some options and alternatives being considered, in terms of routes, possible tunneling, grade separations, dedicated lanes for a light rail system, etc. Specifically regarding Silver Spring, many different options are being examined. The goal is to minimize impact to the community while maximizing ridership. Mr. Madden discussed the various options with the group, including pros and cons of each option.

For the light rail options, it is possible that the trains would not have signal priority. Some tunnels may still be necessary. Many different station locations are being considered, including Bonifant, both sides of Dale, Wayne, etc.

In response to concerns expressed by Advisory Committee members, **Mr. Madden** said recent traffic studies showed that transit in shared lanes does not increase congestion. In fact, traffic would be better than it is now. On the other hand, if a lane were dedicated to the trains, it would be at the expense of a lane for cars, and that would impact traffic significantly. The benefit of dedicated lanes is to improve schedule reliability.

Some concerns and next steps are as follows:

- Dedicated lanes would take away a parking lane (or a traffic lane)
- MTA and DPWT are studying side streets and traffic counts and patterns
- Traffic counts will be confirmed
- Cost analyses are continually being done

The state will weigh the cost effectiveness of each option under review and only the most cost-effective approach will be selected, should the state still consider the project viable [the no-build option is still one possible outcome]. There is further potential to build the project in segments, or other cost effective ways. That will likely not be the issue. For members, the website, complete with diagrams, is [www.purplelinemd.com](http://www.purplelinemd.com).

**Mr. Segerman** suggested that April's meeting continue the topic in depth by dedicating the full meeting to the Purple Line, using the web site and a live internet connection to zoom in on specific map and route areas that affect Silver Spring.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 AM

Next meeting date: April 10, 2008

**March 13, 2008**

<b>Voting Members (12)</b>			
Name	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Chamber Members (3)</b>			
Ali Mahmood	Chevy Chase Bank		X
James S. Polk, Chairman	Technology Service Corporation		X
Tom Collins	Atlantech Online		X
<b>Citizens Advisory Board Members (3)</b>			
Edward Furgol	Kemp Mill, Four Corners, East SS	X	
Charles Segerman, Vice Chairman	North & West Sector Plan Area	X	
Andy Wexler	CBD Resident	X	
<b>TMD Employers less than 50 employees (3)</b>			
Julian Leidman	Bonanza Coin		X
Suvita Melehy	Melehy & Associates		X
Cathy Wilde	Solid Waste Assoc of North America	X	
<b>TMD Employers with 50 or more employees (3)</b>			
G. Michael Price	Discovery Communications	X	
Robin Goudy	Social & Scientific Systems	X	
Geoffrey Kreig	Merchant Link		X
<b>Non-Voting Members (4)</b>			
Sandra Brecher, DPWT Transit Services	DPWT Director or Designee	X	
Chuck Kines	M-NCPPC		X
Sergeant Thomas Harmon	Montgomery County Police	X	
<b>Staff</b>			
Terrie O'Steen	DPWT, Commuter Services	X	
David Kantor	DPWT, Commuter Services		X
Jim Carlson	DPWT, Commuter Services	X	
<b>Guests</b>			
Miriam Jaffe	Attending for Geoff Krieg	X	
Michael Madden	MTA Office of Planning	X	
Harry Sanders	SS Resident	X	
Mel Tull	Silver Spring Regional Services Center	X	